



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/825,019	04/15/2004	Glenn T. Siracki	ERIC.P0348US	7474

7590 05/26/2005

John W. Renner
Renner, Otto, Boisselle & Sklar, LLP
Nineteenth Floor
1621 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115-2191

EXAMINER

NASRI, JAVAID H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 05/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

EK

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/825,019	SIRACKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Javaid Nasri	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/15/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Abstract

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because
 - a) In abstract, last line, change “form” to -- from --.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because
 - a) Per specification page 5, line 13, numeral ‘6’ for the nylon is not marked on any drawing.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will

Art Unit: 2839

be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the

- a) The opening at the abutment end per claim 11,
- b) Angles per claim 9,

Must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 16-20 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- a) In claim 16, "said cover" lacks antecedent bases.
- b) In claim 17, "respective ports" are already in claim 16.

Note: These are few examples only. Applicant is required to check all the claims and correct them accordingly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Linn (3,725,851).

Linn discloses, **for claim 11**, a conductive block having a main power connection in one side and smaller tap connections in another side (see figure 1), each connection comprising a socket with an abutment at the inner end adapted to receive the conductor, and a transverse clamp screw to secure the conductor in the socket when tightened, and an opening at the abutment end of each socket to provide visual access to the end of the conductor when inserted properly against the abutment in the socket (compare figure 3 of the instant invention and figure 1 of Linn).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 22-25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linn.

Linn discloses all the structural limitations of claims 22-25 as shown above, however, Linn does not describe the method as claimed. The claimed method language is counter part of the apparatus claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to develop a particular method for the disclosed apparatus of the cited references.

9. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 1 107 363 A1 (cited in IDS).

EP 1 107 363 A1 discloses, **for claim 11**, a conductive block (50) having a main power connection in one side and smaller tap connections in another side (see figure 2), each connection comprising a socket with an abutment at the inner end adapted to receive the conductor, and a transverse clamp screw to secure the conductor in the socket when tightened, and an opening at the abutment end of each socket to provide visual access to the end of the conductor when inserted properly against the abutment in the socket (compare figure 3 of the instant invention and figure 2 of EP 1 107 363 A1), **for claim 12**, an insulating case (1) for said block, and a transparent window (7) in said case to provide the installer such visual access from outside the case, **for claim 13**, the transparent window is opposite the openings at the abutment

Art Unit: 2839

end of each socket, **for claim 14**, the transparent window is the top of the case (see figure 1), **for claims 3 and 15**, the top may be hinged to the case (see figure 2), **for claim 16**, respective ports in said cover providing limited access to the respective clamp screws, **for claim 17** respective ports (59) in said insulating case to enable bare conductor ends to be inserted into the respective socket against the abutment, **for claims 6 and 18**, alignment galleries (11, 59) in said case to facilitate the insertion of said bare conductor ends into said sockets, **for claims 7 and 19**, the sockets are arranged in offset rows with the inner end of the sockets of at least one row being partially blocked by the adjoining row (see figure 3), **for claim 20**, a wall of the block partially blocking the inner end of each socket to prevent over insertion of the ends of the conductors (see figure 5), **for claims 8 and 21**, the blocking wall of each socket is formed with a generally inverted conical surface (see figure 5), **for claim 1**, a main port for a main power conductor and a series of tap ports for distribution of power (see figure 3), the main and tap ports comprising seating sockets with transversely extending clamp screws adapted to secure conductors seated in the sockets, an insulating case (1) for said block having a transparent cover providing visual access (7, 11, 59) to said conductors, respective ports in said case for inserting conductors fully seated in said respective ports, and ports in said cover providing access to said clamp screws whereby conductors may be inserted fully seated in said ports and secured with said clamp screws without contact with the block, **for claim 2**, window openings in said block at the seating end of each port to enable the tip of each conductor inserted to be viewed through the transparent cover (compare figure 3 of the instant invention and figure 2 of EP 1 107 363 A1), **for claim 4**, limiting ports in said cover for each said clamp screw enabling an insulated tool to be inserted with close clearance for operation of the respective screw but precluding finger insertion (see

Art Unit: 2839

figure 1), **for claim 5**, respective ports in said case for each of the tap ports in said block enabling a bare conductor end to be inserted into the respective port to full seating against the seating end of the port (59, 11), **for claim 9**, the angle of the wall at the center of the conical surface is from about 15 to about 40 degrees transverse of the axis of the port (see figure 5), **for claim 10**, the wall blocking the seating end of the tap port extends far enough to prevent over insertion of the conductors (see figure 5).

Note: USPTO interprets claims, giving claims their “broadest reasonable interpretation.”

(See, e.g., *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55 (Fed. Cir. 1997)).

Contact

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javaid Nasri whose telephone number is 571 272 2095. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

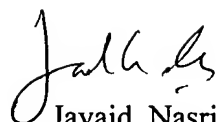
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Tulsidas C. Patel can be reached on 571 272 2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/825,019

Page 8

Art Unit: 2839



Javaid Nasri
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839



Jhn

May 23, 2005